June 7, 1954

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MID -

To whom should we indicate whether we will see Yoigoras or not? If we do not have to make any answer, we can wait until he requests and appointment and then decide what the circumstances counsel us to do. I think we should not see him if he wishes to see us in the Dept before am Foreign Ministers' meeting. But if he should be in a hurry, we could find some other way of finding out what he has to say.

Roselle

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6/9/54

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : ARA - Mr. Holland

THROUGH: ARA - ~~Mr. Woodward~~

FROM : MID - Mr. Burrows

DATE: June 1, 1954

SUBJECT: General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, Guatemalan Exile Leader

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A prominent New York surgeon, Dr. O.S. Lowsly, wrote Ambassador Pheiffer that General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, the Guatemalan exile leader, intended to visit the U.S. soon, and he requested the Ambassador's advice as to whom Ydigoras should see in the Department of State about the Guatemalan problem. (TAB A). Ambassador Pheiffer suggested that he call on Mr. Holland (TAB B).

Ydigoras has been in San Salvador since 1950, heading a right wing group of Guatemalan exiles which contends he is the best choice to replace Arbenz. His henchmen frequently call at the Department pleading for U.S. support, the latest being one Cesar Lanuza who saw Mr. Woodward on May 17. The Ydigoristas claim to have a large underground organization in Guatemala with good Army connections, but they have thus far shown themselves to be totally ineffective in opposition to the present Government, and with passage of time their prestige has steadily declined.

Ydigoras had important posts under the dictator Ubico, but took an ambiguous position at the time of the 1944 revolution which prevented his being fully identified with the old regime. The new government got rid of him by sending him to London as Minister. He returned in 1950 to run for President supported principally by conservatives and ex-partisans of the dictator Ubico. The Government dissolved his party and forced him out of the country in the midst of the campaign, but he still polled 70,000 votes against Arbenz's 260,000, and claims the election was stolen from him.

Ydigoras has a vague program for combatting communism and the present Guatemalan regime, apparently based on hopes for a bloodless coup in his favor. Although some Americans who know Ydigoras consider him a good man, his lieutenants appear to be irresponsible and chiefly concerned over the pretensions of the rival exile leader, Col. Carlos Castillo Armas. Ydigoristas accuse the U.S. of allowing the United Fruit Company to finance Castillo Armas, and claim that he is sabotaging their anti-communist efforts.

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Recommendation

That, unless you want to receive Ydigoras, you ask Mr. Woodward to do so if and when he asks for an appointment.

ARA:MID:JFFISHER:WBQUARLETT:mmh

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C O P Y

THE OSWALD SWINNEY LOWSLEY MEDICAL GROUP

111 East 71st Street
(Cor. Park Ave.)
New York 21, N. Y.

TRafalgar 9-2660

May 17, 1954

Ambassador William T. Pheiffer,
Embassy of the United States of America,
Ciudad Trujillo,
Dominican Republic.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I received your delightful letter and am naturally anxious to see the lady whom you have chosen to share your life with you, I am sure she must be a gem.

General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is now in exile from Guatemala in San Salvador and is coming to the United States in two weeks to see if something cannot be done about the awful conditions which exist in Guatemala. I shall appreciate as a particular favor if you will give me an idea whom he should see in the State Department that could be helpful and if you do not care to do this officially, let me know the proper men for him to see in Washington and I will transmit the news to the General. He is an old friend of mine, upon whom I operated when I was in Guatemala many years ago and who has always been very kind to my son, David and me. I would like very much to assist him in his project which is of restoring Guatemala to the family of Nations again. Therefore, I would appreciate any assistance you may give, officially or unofficially.

With warmest personal regards to yourself and your wife whom I know is charming and we may see her next Winter, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Oswald S. Lowsley

O. S. Lowsley, M. D.

C O P Y

WTP/bd

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic,
May 24, 1954.

Dear Oswald:

Although I am really going at the pace of a greyhound and carrying the load of an elephant on this Monday morning, I am glad to pause long enough to make this immediate response to your letter of May 17, 1954 so that you may be in a position to give your estimable friend, General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, who is now in political exile from Guatemala, appropriate advice as to whom he should contact in our State Department while he is in Washington.

General Ydigoras should logically confer with the Honorable Henry F. Holland, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, in furtherance of his desire to be of aid in rectifying existing conditions in Guatemala. I do not anticipate that a man of the General's stature and antecedents will experience difficulty in obtaining an audience with Mr. Holland. However, the making of the appointment might be facilitated if the General will telephone my good friend and colleague, Mr. William B. Connett, Jr., at the State Department, telephone: Republic 7-5600, Extension 3264. Mr. Connett is an official of the Division of Caribbean Affairs, and he is Desk Officer for the Dominican Republic. I am sending a copy of this letter, and a copy of your letter, to Mr. Connett so that he may understand the situation in advance of hearing from General Ydigoras, in the event the General wishes to follow my suggestion.

Assuring you that it is a pleasure to cooperate with you in this situation, and with my kindest personal regards, I remain

Very sincerely,

William T. Pheiffer
American Ambassador

cc: William B. Connett, Jr., Esquire

Dr. O. S. Lowsley,
The Oswald Swinney Lowsley Medical Group,
111 East 71st Street,
New York 21, New York.

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